(c) increase in production of pulses during 2008 in comparison to the year 2004?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. National Pulses Development Project (NPDP) was implemented in the country from 1990-91 to 2003-04. However, NPDP was merged into a Centrally Sponsored Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM) which is in operation in 14 major pulses producing States with effect from 1st April, 2004. In addition National Food Security Mission (NSFM)-Pulses and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) have been launched in 2007-08 and Macro Management of Agriculture (MM A) (Revised) in 2008-09.

The annual amount spent/released for two major schemes, during last three years is as under:-

(Rs. in lakh)

Year	ISOPOM	NFSM-Pulses
2006-07	30254.87	-
2007-08	34345.14	10558.785
2008-09 upto 8.12.2008	17106.30	19093.981

(c) The production of pulses has increased from 149.10 lakh tonnes in 2003-04 to 151.20 lakh tonnes during 2007-08.

"Single window" scheme for farmers

†1271. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a lot of shortcomings have been found in the efforts of extending the benefits of advancement of technology to farmers through a "single window" scheme in 2006-07;

(b) whether Agricultural Technology Information Centres (ATICs) proposes to refund the money;

(c) whether efforts have been made to rectify the same in 2007-08; and

(d) if so, the details of improvement in selling of agricultural equipments, testing of quality of seed and selling of nursery plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) sanctioned 44 Agricultural Technology Information Centres (ATIC) as a "single window" support system with State Agricultural Universities and ICAR Institutes for availability of diagnostic services, research products emerging from the institution, and technology information for availability to the farmers. During the implementation of the scheme there were certain constraints like full utilization of funds provided for establishment of ATICs, availability of research products from some of the institutes and documentation of feedback of the farmers.

(b) The scheme was funded during 1998-99 to 2003-04 and accordingly the unutilized fund was adjusted for settlement of accounts. There is no further proposal for refund of money by the ATICs.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

(c) and (d) Efforts have been made for improvement of various activities of the scheme. As far as agricultural equipments are concerned the Central Institute of Agricultural Engineering, Bhopal is mainly engaged in development of prototype of agricultural tools and implements some of which are sold to the farmers. During 2007-08 tools and implements worth Rs.93.52 lakh were sold against Rs.41.94 lakh during 2006-07. As far as sale of seeds and nursery plants are concerned the availability of seeds through ATICs has increased from 2.70 lakh quintal during 2006-07 to 4.10 lakh quintal during 2007-08. The availability of planting material has increased in 18 ATICs. The ATICs do not have facility for testing of seed. Overall the number of farmers availing various advisory services increased from 3.50 lakh during 2006-07 to 4.07 lakh during 2007-08.

Compensation for agricultural crop

1272.SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state whether Government has any plan to consider one village as one unit for the purpose of paying compensation for agriculture crop?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) which is in operation since rabi 1999-2000, is an 'area' based scheme. As per provisions in the scheme, the implementing States/UTs can notify any unit area of insurance including village for the implementation of the scheme. However, the States/UTs will have to undertake requisite number of Crop Cutting Experiments (CCEs) for making assessment of the yield at village level.

Opening of chemist shops by Government

†1273. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to open a chemist shop in every district in the country where 350 essential medicines would be sold;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of those 350 essential medicines that would be made available in these shops and how much less their prices would be as compared to medicines sold in open market; and

(d) by when these shops would start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (d) Government has decided to open "jan aushadhi" generic drug stores in the country depending upon the financial assistance and other support offered by respective State Governments. The first District Generic Store in the name of "jan aushadhi" has been opened at Civil Hospital, Amritsar (Punjab) on 25-11-08. The list of medicines is finalized in consultation with State Governments. A Comparative list of some of the medicines indicating average market price and "jan aushadhi" price is given in the Statement.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi